

NARFE is a national organization that was founded in 1921 to support both active and retired federal employees. It functions as an information resource, keeping its members up-to-date on federal retirement, health care, compensation and other benefits that affect federal employees and retirees. It also advocates on behalf of its members to protect and enhance the benefits they have earned.

With well over 1,000 chapters nationwide, NARFE also serves as a source of community engagement. It unites public servants and provides them with opportunities to do what they do best: serve their community.

Today, I would like to recognize the past and current members and leaders of NARFE Chapter 1116. They have contributed to a thriving civil society in Northern Virginia and are part of the backbone that makes both our community and this country great. I would like to specifically recognize President Kathy Arpa and the other officers and board members for their dedication and efforts on behalf of our current and retired federal employees.

The federal government cannot function effectively and efficiently without the hard work and commitment of our exceptional civil servants. NARFE Chapter 1116 has advocated and supported our public servants for the past 50 years and I am honored to recognize the Chapter on this occasion.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating NARFE Chapter 1116 for 50 years of service to our federal workers and to wish them continued success protecting the rights of current and future federal workers and retirees.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2019

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote on June 10, 2019 for Roll Call Vote 242, Roll Call Vote 243, and Roll Call Vote 244. Had I been present, my vote would have been the following: Yea on Roll Call Vote 242, Yea on Roll Call Vote 243, and Yea on Roll Call 244.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF PRS CRISISLINK

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2019

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize PRS CrisisLink on its 50th anniversary. This occasion carries great significance for my family and I, as my wife is co-chair of the Congressional Spouses for Suicide Prevention and Education.

PRS CrisisLink is a free 24/7 crisis intervention and suicide prevention program that offers a free and confidential crisis and suicide prevention hotline for Northern Virginia and the Washington, D.C. region.

Under the leadership of Wendy Gradison, PRS CrisisLink continues to evolve into a highly important resource within our community. Based on a 2009 report by the Substance

Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, PRS CrisisLink has determined that an estimated 72,000 residents of Northern Virginia have a serious mental illness with the majority of whom not receiving treatment. Given the high numbers of persons with mental illness, PRS seeks ways to serve those in need through a variety of programs.

PRS CrisisLink hotlines are staffed by highly trained volunteers and crisis line workers who provide helpful information about community services, referrals to mental health services and tips on how to help those struggling with mental health issues.

With many community members in Northern Virginia and the Washington, D.C. region still in dire need of mental health services and support, PRS CrisisLink aims to further expand service delivery to reach as many individuals as possible.

Each year, PRS serves more than 1,100 clients. Last year alone the volunteers and staff at CrisisLink responded to 45,000 phone calls. I commend the staff and volunteers for their selfless service to our community. The tools they provide to help individuals with mental illness live with dignity and become fully integrated members of our community.

Madam Speaker, programs like PRS CrisisLink are a testament to good community leadership and further evidence that we live in a community that cares. I commend the staff and volunteers of PRS CrisisLink for the life-saving work they do every day on behalf of others. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating PRS CrisisLink on its 50th anniversary and in thanking them for their continued service to our community.

TRANSPORTATION EMERGENCY RELIEF FUNDS AVAILABILITY ACT

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2019

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to introduce the "Transportation Emergency Relief Funds Availability Act" to safeguard federal funding for disaster-recovery projects.

I want to thank my colleagues from California's Congressional delegation for their support: Representatives JARED HUFFMAN (D-CA2), MIKE THOMPSON (D-CA5), MARK DESAULNIER (D-CA11), BARBARA LEE (D-CA13), JACKIE SPEIER (D-CA14), ERIC SWALWELL (D-CA15), RO KHANNA (D-CA17), ANNA G. ESHOO (D-CA 18), ZOE LOFGREN (D-CA 19), JIMMY PANETTA (D-CA20), SALUD O. CARBAJAL (D-CA24), KATIE HILL (D-CA25), JULIA BROWNLEY (D-CA26), GRACE F. NAPOLITANO (D-CA32), NORMA J. TORRES (D-CA35), RAUL RUIZ (D-CA36), GILBERT RAY CISNEROS, JR. (D-CA39), ALAN S. LOWENTHAL (D-CA47), HARLEY ROUDA (D-CA48), and SCOTT H. PETERS (D-CA52).

Our legislation would prevent the Trump administration from targeting disaster-recovery funding for highway and transportation projects across our state. In January 31, 2019, the Federal Highway Administration denied the California Department of Transportation's (Caltrans) request for 1-year extensions for 66 out of 73 projects awarded "emergency relief" funding from the U.S. Department of Transpor-

tation. During previous administrations, such 1-year extensions were routinely granted under the Federal Highway Administration's and Federal Transit Administration's emergency relief programs.

Californians are facing increasingly frequent and severe floods and wildfires due to climate change. They deserve nothing less than the full-throated support of their Federal Government, and that is exactly what our bill ensures.

Current U.S. Department of Transportation regulations allow the Federal Government to claw back "emergency relief" funding for highway and public transit projects if those projects do not reach construction within 2 fiscal years. The "Transportation Emergency Relief Funds Availability Act" would repeal this regulatory deadline and provide up to 6 years for projects awarded these funds to advance to construction. The new 6-year deadline would start following the date on which a disaster was declared by the respective state's governor or the president.

I also want to thank Caltrans, the California State Association of Counties and the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) for their support of this critical legislation for our state.

Madam Speaker, I hope that any surface transportation reauthorization bill this Congress will include the "Transportation Emergency Relief Funds Availability Act." This is a major priority for California: the nation's most populous state and the fifth largest economy in the world. As a member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I am working with my fellow California colleagues to see this done.

RECOGNIZING THE 2019 FAIRFAX COUNTY VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2019

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Volunteer Fairfax and express my sincere appreciation to recipients of the 27th Annual Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards.

Established more than 40 years ago, Volunteer Fairfax matches the skills and interests of thousands of volunteers with the needs of local non-profit organizations. The success of this model and its impact on delivery of needed services is beyond question; Volunteer Fairfax has been rated as one of the most effective community service organizations in the nation.

Last year alone, over 6,000 individuals contributed more than 328,000 volunteer hours totaling almost \$8,000,000. These staggering numbers are a testament to the strong ethos of public service and of volunteerism that exists in Fairfax County and is one of the many reasons why this community is such a wonderful place to live.

Each year, Volunteer Fairfax selects a few exceptional individuals, groups, or organizations to receive special recognition. It is my great pleasure to include in the RECORD the following names of the 2019 Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards honorees.

COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

Braddock District: Allan Boswell Robertson